

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 48

Adoption of Public Policy Platform for Local, Regional, State and Federal Advocacy

WHEREAS, the 2018 Public Policy Platform for Local Regional, State, and Federal Advocacy (the "Platform") was reviewed by City Council and staff at its annual planning session on January 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the priorities defined within the Platform reflect the City Council's goals and priorities, as well as its position on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation and regulation at the local, regional, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, Council's adoption of this Platform will authorize the City's active participation to influence decision-making on legislative, administrative, regulatory and funding issues, and to support judicial advocacy consistent with the City's priorities; and

WHEREAS, using the Platform as a guide, the City may timely advocate positions on specific legislation, regulations and budget proposals, and more efficiently advance the City's interests.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Lincoln hereby adopts the 2018 Public Policy Platform for Local, Regional, State and Federal Advocacy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of February, 2018.

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Joiner, Gilbert, Hydrick, Karleskint, Nader

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS:



Stan Nader, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gwen Scanlon, City Clerk

CITY OF LINCOLN

Public Policy Platform for Local, Regional, State and Federal Advocacy 2018



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2018 City Council

Mayor Stan Nader

Councilman Peter Gilbert

Councilman Dan Karleskint

Mayor Pro Tem Gabriel Hydrick

Councilman Paul Joiner

BACKGROUND & TENETS

BACKGROUND: The local, regional, state, and federal priorities defined within this legislative and regulatory platform reflect the City Council's goals and priorities as well as its position on issues that are currently, or are anticipated to be, the focus of future legislation and regulation at the local, regional, state and federal levels. Council's adoption of this platform authorizes the City's active participation to influence local, regional, state and federal decision-making on legislative, administrative, regulatory and funding issues and to support judicial advocacy consistent with the City's priorities.

Using this document as a guide, the City will adopt positions on specific legislation, regulations and budget proposals. The Mayor will sign letters of support or opposition based on the City's identified interests, and the Mayor and other Council Members will advance City interests through individual and regional advocacy efforts.

The platform is to be updated annually to be responsive to changes in local, regional, state and federal legislative and regulatory environments and to reflect the interests unique to Lincoln and interests that may also be common to cities throughout the region and State.

POLICY TENETS: Below are the primary principles or beliefs that guided development of this Public Policy Platform:

- Local Control
- Local Right to Choose
- Encourage Small, Efficient Government on Federal, state and local levels
- Protecting First the Interests of Local Residents and Businesses
- Government Accountability and Responsibility

STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE PLATFORM IMPLEMENTATION

1. City advocacy: Timeliness is critical when responding to issues central to the City. City advocacy letters for issues with direct connection to this platform are signed by the Mayor. In the event the Mayor is not available to sign an advocacy letter, the responsibility will reside with the Mayor Pro-Tem. Copies of all advocacy letters will be made available to the full Council prior to their sending. If any member of the City Council determines, within the designated time frame, that it is appropriate for all five Council Members to discuss and/or sign an advocacy letter, then the issue will be brought to the full Council during a City Council meeting prior to issuing an advocacy letter. Council members are encouraged to advance requests for advocacy on issues.
2. Active Participation: City Council Members and staff participate in organizations such as the League of California Cities, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Regional Water Authority (RWA), Greater Sacramento Economic Council (GSEC), and the Lincoln Area Chamber of Commerce to advocate on issues that are important to the City. This allows the City to have a stronger voice on issues and a greater potential to influence key policy and legislative matters.
3. Monitoring: During the course of the legislative year, Council and staff monitor legislation and makes recommendations on letters of support/opposition as the bills progress through the legislative process.
4. Collaboration: Council and City staff work collaboratively with the staff of regional, federal and state representatives to understand and develop strategies to influence legislation, as well as ensure the City's Public Policy Platform is clearly understood by regional, state and federal elected representatives.
5. Coordination: Council and City staff strategize and coordinate with other jurisdictions, special districts and organizations on key issues of common interest to ensure a stronger voice on legislation, regulatory and policy matters.
6. Annual Platform Re-evaluation: City staff works with each department on legislation, regulations, and project funding opportunities that are important to City departments. Priority lists of projects and legislative matters for each department are presented to City Council for possible inclusion into City's Public Policy Platform as priorities.
7. Proactive Action: Council and City staff will proactively initiate legislation when necessary to protect and enhance the Lincoln community.

PRIORITIES FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

A. Citywide

Support

- Legislation that would further the stated missions of the City's departments.
- Legislation that preserves city assets, infrastructure and projects.
- Legislation and policies that protect our residents and businesses from unnecessary and costly state and federal regulations and permits.
- Full cost reimbursement to local agencies by the state and federal government for all mandated programs.
- Measures to achieve fair and proportionate representation on statewide and regional boards.

Oppose

- Legislation that would impede the ability of each department to effectively meet their operational objectives.
- Legislation that would impose significant compliance costs to the City and where a local public benefit has not been identified to justify costs.
- Measures that impose state-mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement, or in the alternative, a worthwhile and quantifiable benefit.

B. Administration

Support

- Legislation, policies and regulations that simplify administration of public records, election code and Brown Act provisions and provide full cost recovery.
- Measures to reform California's tort system to curtail unreasonable liability exposure for public agencies and restore the ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.

C. Key Partnerships

Support

- Western Placer Unified School District in efforts to protect current state and federal funding sources and grant funding opportunities for the

growth, expansion, improvement, maintenance and rehabilitation of Lincoln's elementary, middle and high schools.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Economic Development

Support

- The preservation and enhancement of the City's ability to generate and retain sales and use tax revenue and local point-of-sale revenue allocations.
- Economic development initiatives that preserve and enhance a positive business climate by providing tools and resources needed for local businesses to expand and flourish locally.
- Legislation, funding and policies that promote Career and Technical Education, trade schools, community college certification programs, investment in research and development (R&D) technology and state-level incentives that could support local business.

Oppose

- Legislation that would restrict or mandate use of the City's sales and use tax revenue.
- Legislation that complicates or raises requirements for use of general or specific sales tax initiatives.

B. Land Use Planning

Support

- Efforts to strengthen the legal and fiscal capability of local agencies to prepare, adopt and implement plans for orderly growth, development, beautification and conservation of local planning areas including, but not limited to, regulatory authority over zoning, subdivisions and annexations.
- Legislation and regulations that require regulatory agencies to consider the economic impacts of mitigation measures regarding permits for water supply, water conservation, flood control, air quality, water quality, sustainability or other issues.
- Legislation for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform that streamlines the environmental review process and reduces opportunities for frivolous CEQA based lawsuits.

Oppose

- Efforts at the regional, state, or federal level that would dictate growth and development within the City and/or erode local land use authority

or control.

C. Housing

Support

- Housing measures that promote the development, enhancement and balancing of cost, safety and accessibility of affordable housing
- Reforms to housing element law that address potential conflicts between local growth projections and State Regional Housing Needs Assessment (“RHNA”) numbers, regional transportation plans, sustainable community strategies and problems associated with the distribution of RHNA units within a council of governments.
- Measures that promote modification of default densities applied to available site inventories for RHNA that are more in keeping with the character and density that is realistically achievable in suburban jurisdictions.

D. Building Code

Support

- Adoption of effective state building codes to promote community building safety and mitigation of natural hazards while at the same time providing flexibility to account for local conditions.
- Adoption of accessibility standards in the California Building Code consistent with federal standards.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

A. Local Government Finance

Support

- Measures to relieve taxpayers of the burden of paying for services that could be charged directly to the service user.
- Measures that ensure the retention of existing local revenue sources, including the City’s share of property taxes, sales taxes, use tax, transient occupancy taxes, vehicle license fees, etc.
- Measures that implement pension and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) to help reduce the risk of fiscal and service-level insolvency.

Oppose

- Attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate city revenue sources.
- Any efforts at the state level to retain additional revenues currently

dedicated to local government for state purposes.

- Measures, such as “maintenance of effort” requirements, that further limit cities’ ability to administer their own revenues.
- Legislation that shifts tax revenues away from local governments without the adequate provision of a constitutionally guaranteed “backfill” to offset the lost revenues of those local governments.

B. Employee Relations/Administrative Services

Support

- Reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.

Oppose

- Measures that reduce local control or create additional financial burden related to employee relation and collective bargaining issues that can be more appropriately negotiated at the bargaining table.
- Any measure that imposes upon local government mandated employee benefits that are more properly decided at the local level.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Public Safety

Support

- Legislation that ensures flexibility for and local control of all grant resources and funding for public safety technology and mandatory reporting systems.
- Legislation efforts to improve local law enforcement, fire suppression and prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, rescue services, emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness initiatives.
- Legislation that seeks to reimburse the City for the overtime costs associated with public safety personnel who are required to appear before state or County courts.
- Legislative efforts to grant state and federal funding to supplement local law enforcement to increase staffing, equipment and capital improvements to maintain the safety and security of Lincoln residents.
- Legislation that promotes comprehensive and effective drug and alcohol education, intervention and rehabilitation programs.
- Legislation that seeks funding to assist local law enforcement in reducing crimes related to illegal drugs, burglary and assault,

including domestic violence, all other violent crimes and implement sobriety checkpoints.

- Legislation to maintain or increase funding for shelters, victim advocacy, trauma and crisis counseling and related mental health services, assist victims of violent crime, especially minors and victims of family violence and sexual assault.
- Legislation that provides adequate funding to cities for realignment services –related to Prison Realignment Act (AB 109).

Oppose

- Legislation that would decrease state and federal funding for programs and services including Homeland Security.
- Legislation that reduces or eliminates funding to cities for realignment services.
- Legislation that prevents or inhibits regulation or enforcement of local, state and federal laws by local law enforcement.
- Legislation that prevents or removes regulation authority from local officials.
- Legislation that reduces local control of EMS and ability of local governments to determine local service levels.

B. Emergency Preparedness

Support

- Legislation that provides increased state and federal funding for emergency preparedness, planning and response.
- Efforts to secure adequate frequencies and communications systems for multi-jurisdictional connectivity for public safety and protect the frequencies from intrusion.

C. Youth

Support

- Legislation that treats and assists the needs of at-risk juvenile offenders and juveniles that are placed on court-ordered probation.
- Legislation that provides funding at the local level to address gang prevention and intervention programs.
- Measures that protect children from tobacco and alcohol use as well as tobacco or alcohol related products marketing and sales.
- Legislation that encourages safe routes to schools and

enforcement of school zone speed limits.

PUBLIC SERVICES

A. Air Quality / Emissions

Support

- Legislation, programs, and funding for local governments' implementation of SB 375 and AB 32.
- Measures that provide for continued funding and incentives to cities to work together to improve air quality by reducing emissions and advancing economic development.
- Legislation that holds gross polluters (those which exceed current standards) directly accountable for increased emissions.
- Efforts that emphasize the use of advanced technologies such as solar power and battery storage, and market incentives as a means to achieve state emission reduction objectives for all sources, in addition to providing incentives and grants for their implementation.
- Measures to increase state funding for Urban Forestry programs.
- Legislation that provides funding and other incentives for installation of charging stations for "low" and "zero emission" vehicles.

Oppose

- Any infringement on local home rule authority to plan for and adapt to future climate conditions, precipitation patterns, temperatures, and air quality attainment strategies

B. Parks, Recreation & Open Space

Support

- Legislation and grants that fund parks, recreation, art, open space, and trails that enhance the quality of life for Lincoln residents including programs, maintenance and capital improvements.

C. Public Works & Transportation

Support

- Measures that provide for new tools, authority and funding to enable increased investment in infrastructure, primarily road maintenance and other improvements.
- Funding to meet storm water/water quality regulation mandates.
- Legislation that provides funding for cities to comply with state and federal-mandated flood protection levels.

- Efforts to streamline application, reporting and monitoring requirements to meet state and federal mandates.
- Support protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues and enhanced ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities (e.g. Gas Tax, CMAQ, state bond funds).
- Cooperative development and funding of an integrated, comprehensive, and efficient transportation network to include inter-county and regional highways, mass transit, facilities, and infrastructure in Placer County, meeting the needs of its residents and businesses.
- Initiatives for local transit operations and maintenance funding.

Oppose

- Legislation that reduces or eliminates revenues for transportation and transit purposes.

D. Facilities

Support

- Grants and legislation that provide for construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of public facilities.
- Legislation allowing local flexibility in creating funding mechanisms for local infrastructure needs.

E. Water Supply & Delivery

Support

- Efforts that help local governments maintain water conservation programs that meet state objectives, are cost-effective, and make sense for the local conditions.
- State and federal efforts to increase water-efficiency ratings for common consumer products that use water.
- Protect Lincoln's and region's ability to locally manage groundwater resources.
- Protect the City's land-use authority and its right to make land-use decisions with respect to water supply.

F. Water Quality

Support

- Legislation that revises the State Constitution to allow for storm water programs to establish a funding mechanism that is similar to that of the utilities under the Proposition 218 reforms.

Oppose

- Efforts to impose additional state-mandated storm water program requirements without commensurate funding for those programs.
- Regulations, policies or requirements related to recycled water, storm water and wastewater when it is not cost effective, has no clear health benefit and/or is not based on sound science.
- Efforts to add contaminants of emerging concern for regulation and testing for recycled water, storm water, and wastewater when it is not cost-effective, has no clear health benefit and/or is not based on sound science.
- Efforts to increase whole effluent toxicity testing for recycled water, storm water and wastewater when it is not cost-effective, has no clear benefit and/or is not based on sound science.

G. Solid Waste Management

Support

- Support efforts that reuse waste in a beneficial way if cost-effective relative to benefits.
- Support reduction in reporting requirements.

Oppose

- Oppose efforts to increase statewide tipping fees where there is no clear benefit to Environmental Utilities ratepayers.
- Oppose efforts to increase recycling diversion rates if determined not to be cost-effective relative to the benefits that could be achieved.
- Oppose further advancement of organic recycling regulations until such time there is a reasonably priced method to recycle the material.
- Efforts to increase recycling diversion rates if determined to not be cost-effective, relative to the benefits that could be achieved.

H. Utilities

Oppose

- Legislation that results in increased energy rates for the residents and businesses of Lincoln where a public benefit has not been identified to justify costs.

CRITICAL CONCERNS FOR UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

1. Changing Economy -- The City has a focused interest in being actively engaged in discussions regarding local tax systems, leakage from Internet sales and the fundamental shift from purchasing taxable commodities to purchasing non-taxable services and the impacts these have on the City's ability to fund basic services.
2. Federal and State Funding for Infrastructure and Transportation Projects -- Maintaining or increasing funding for these types of projects and improvements are critical for the City's ability to upgrade and maintain roadways and meet future infrastructure and transportation demands.
3. Changes to Tax Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds – The tax exempt status of municipal bonds allows important public infrastructure to be financed and lowers costs to Lincoln taxpayers.
4. Challenges with State and Federal Permitting Processes -- The City has concerns with various permitting processes at both the state and federal level that impact the ability of development projects to gain approval within a reasonable amount of time.
5. Homelessness -- The City will remain active in addressing the needs of the City's homeless population with a primary focus of reducing the population of chronically homeless by providing solutions that address the fundamental causes of homelessness, by supporting solutions that provide permanent housing and self-sufficiency, and ensuring the public safety and security of Lincoln residents, neighborhoods and commercial areas.
6. Possible Extension of the State's Emergency Drought Regulations – The City is concerned that the state will extend conservation targets that do not consider climate, land-use, and other region-specific attributes; that fail to recognize previous water supply reliability and conservation investments by the region and local community; and that do not account for potential relief from positive weather outcomes.